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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,456	11/02/2001	Timothy R. Owens	5618P2971	5019
8791	7590	10/15/2008	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP			ROY, BAISAKHI	
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			3737	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/15/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/008,456	OWENS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BAISAKHI ROY	3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2008.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 6/2/08, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4-10, 13-24, 27-35, 38-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillies et al. in view of Werp et al. (6152933).

Gillies et al. teach an apparatus and method of inserting a medical device such as a catheter with a plurality of target markers into an anatomy, scanning a MRI image of the anatomy with said MRI processor having the ability to detect low-level signals, processing the scanned image, determining a location and orientation of the medical device in relation to the anatomy, and displaying a precise image of the device within the anatomy where the device is not depicted as noise for MRI systems (col. 6 lines 27-49, col. 8 lines 16-31, col. 11 lines 5-13, col. 14 lines 41-60, col. 27 lines 7-40).

Gillies et al. teach said medical device to be expandable and composed of polymer material (col. 25 lines 15-25, col. 28 lines 52-55).

Gillies et al. teach superimposing an image of the medical device over the anatomy by replacing a plurality of pixels of an anatomy with a plurality of pixels of the medical device (col. 11 lines 5-13 lines 31-64).

Gillies et al. teach a MRI system comprising a scanner, a processor, a control unit, and a display with the ability to detect low-level signals from a medical device with a plurality of target markers which is inserted into an anatomy, where the device is not depicted as noise for MRI systems, and the location and orientation of said device is determined prior to insertion into an anatomy (col. 6 lines 27-49, col. 8 lines 16-31, col. 11 lines 5-13, col. 14 lines 41-60, col. 27 lines 7-40).

Gillies et al. however do not explicitly teach pre-scanning the medical device before inserting in an anatomy. In the same field of endeavor Werp et al. disclose a system and method where information for the plurality of target markers is prior to insertion of the device into the anatomy (col. 3 lines 15-24). Werp et al. teach the use of

a device or a bolt that is transparent to MR imaging but with the use of the marker, provides a clear indication of the position and orientation of the bolt inside the body. Therefore Werp et al. teach taking a preprocedure MR image of the bolt containing the marker to ensure proper positioning of the device when it is inserted into the anatomy. It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to with the target markers as taught by Gillies et al. for the purpose of obtaining a pre-procedure image of the marker and enable the operator to accurately implement follow-up procedures and register the coordinates of the stored image of the device over the image of the anatomy.

3. Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 25, 26, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillies et al. in view of Werp et al. and further in view of Young et al.

Regarding claims 2, 11, 25, and 36, Gillies et al. teach the use of a plurality of target markers as set forth above, but do not explicitly teach said markers to be one of ferromagnetic and paramagnetic material. In the same field of endeavor, Young et al. teach said medical device to be composed of paramagnetic material (col. 6 lines 34-65, col. 12 lines 37-67, col. 13 lines 1-20). It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the marker material composition teaching by Gillies et al. and Badano et al. to modify the teaching by Young et al. for the purpose of using a paramagnetic material to generate images with enhanced visibility of the medical device.

Regarding claims 3, 12, 26, and 37, Gillies et al. do not explicitly teach the magnetic field strength of the MRI system. It is well known in the art that diagnostic MRI system employ magnets with operating field strengths in the range of 0.02 T to 1.5 T. In the same field of endeavor, Young et al. teach the use of a MRI system operating at 1.5 Tesla (col. 14 lines 10-15). It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teaching by Young et al. to modify the teaching by Gillies et al. for the purpose of applying an appropriate magnetic field strength.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BAISAKHI ROY whose telephone number is (571)272-7139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 a.m. - 4p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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BR
/B. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737